TOW Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS)



MISSION

Increase target acquisition ranges and fire all configurations of TOW missiles while allowing room for growth for TOW missile improvements/follow-on missiles; increasing maintainability and reducing logistics requirements; and improving system engagement performance.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The TOW Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) is a materiel change to the current Ground TOW 2 Weapon System for first-to-deploy light forces. ITAS has an improved design with built-in test/built-in test equipment for increased maintainability and reduced logistics requirements. It also features an improved man-machine interface that improves system engagement performance.

The ITAS will be fielded at battalion level, replacing TOW 2 in light infantry units. The ITAS modification kit consists of an integrated (day/night sight with laser rangefinder) target acquisition subsystem, fire control subsystem, battery power source, and modified traversing unit. The ITAS will operate from the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) and the dismount tripod platform.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

No known direct foreign counterpart. The Hughes Aircraft Company, Spanish-assembled, light-weight launcher is a somewhat similar but less capable system.

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

4QFY96 Awarded low-rate initial production (LRIP) I contract (25 units).

2QFY98 Awarded LRIP II (74 units).

4QFY98 First unit equipped (A Troop, 1–17th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division).

2QFY99 Successfully conducted limited user test II.

4QFY99 Awarded full-rate production contract (102 systems), with priced annual options for FY00–03.

1QFY00–2QFY00 Conducted TOW ITAS fielding to 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

2QFY00 Awarded contract to transition ITAS interim contractor support to contractor logistics support.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

3QFY00 Milestone III decision to enter FRP.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Raytheon (McKinney, TX)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors

